

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 10, 2011  
AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 25, 2011  
AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 25, 2011

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 668**

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**Introduced by Senator Evans**

February 18, 2011

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An act to add and repeal Section 51257.5 of to the Government Code, relating to agricultural land.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 668, as amended, Evans. Local government: Williamson Act.

The California Land Conservation Act of 1965, otherwise known as the Williamson Act, authorizes cities and counties to enter into 10-year contracts with landowners whereby the landowner agrees to restrict the use of his or her land in exchange for a reduced property taxation rate. Under existing law, the city or county receives a subvention for the property tax revenue lost as a result of these contracts.

This bill would, until January 1, 2016, authorize an open-space district, a *nonprofit* land-trust organization, a nonprofit entity, or a public agency to enter into a contract with a landowner who has also entered into a Williamson Act contract, upon approval of the city or county that holds the Williamson Act contract, to keep that landowner's land in contract under the Williamson Act, for a period of up to 10 years in exchange for the open-space district's, land-trust organization's, or nonprofit entity's payment of all or a portion of the foregone property tax revenue to the county, where the state has failed to reimburse, or reduced the subvention to, the city or county for property tax revenues not received as a result of Williamson Act contracts.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 51257.5 is added to the Government  
2 Code, to read:  
3 51257.5. (a) If the state fails to make payments to a city or  
4 county pursuant to Section 16142 or 16142.1, or if the state  
5 provides a reduced subvention, a city or county may accept  
6 contributions from ~~an open-space district, a~~ *a nonprofit* land-trust  
7 organization, a nonprofit entity, or a public agency for specific  
8 land under a contract within the city or county to supplement  
9 foregone property tax revenues pursuant to this section.  
10 (b) (1) ~~An open-space district,~~ *A nonprofit* land-trust  
11 organization, nonprofit entity, or public agency may contract with  
12 an owner of land currently under a contract pursuant to this chapter,  
13 upon approval of the contract by the city or county, for a period  
14 of up to 10 years, to keep the land owner's property under contract  
15 with the county pursuant to this chapter, in exchange for the  
16 contribution by the ~~open-space district,~~ *nonprofit* land-trust  
17 organization, or nonprofit entity's payment *for an equivalent period*  
18 *of years* of all or a portion of the foregone property tax revenue to  
19 the city or county.  
20 (2) A contract entered into pursuant to this subdivision shall be  
21 subject to any limitation in power of ~~an open-space district, a~~  
22 *nonprofit* land-trust organization, nonprofit entity, or public agency.  
23 (3) A contract entered into pursuant to this subdivision shall not  
24 authorize or require the conversion of land subject to the contract  
25 into a mitigation bank site.  
26 ~~(c) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), the city or county may use~~  
27 ~~up to 5 percent of the total amount contributed by an open-space~~  
28 ~~district, land-trust organization, nonprofit entity, or public agency~~  
29 ~~for administrative purposes.~~  
30 ~~(d) (1) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1,~~  
31 ~~2016, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute,~~  
32 ~~that is enacted before January 1, 2016, deletes or extends that date.~~  
33 ~~(2) A contract entered into pursuant to this section shall remain~~  
34 ~~in force until the termination date of the contract, but may contain~~  
35 ~~a provision to authorize the mutual cancellation or renegotiation~~

1 ~~of the contract on January 1, 2016, or upon the resuming of~~  
2 ~~payments pursuant to Section 16142 or 16142.1 by the state to the~~  
3 ~~city or county.~~

4 *(c) As used in this section, “nonprofit land-trust organization”*  
5 *means a nonprofit land-trust organization as defined in subdivision*  
6 *(b) of Section 5011.7 of the Public Resources Code.*

7 *(d) No contract shall be entered into on or after January 1, 2016*  
8 *unless a later enacted statute, that is enacted before January 1,*  
9 *2016, deletes or extends that date.*